

**REMARKS**

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of January 29, 2004 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled, rendering the rejection based on the patent to Birang et al. moot.

Claims 3-6 have been amended to address the formal matter. It is noted that these changes do not further limit the claims.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the present application should now clearly be in condition for allowance. Indication of such is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is requested to pass the case to issue. If the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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